



# DARK NIGHTS

1

# BATMAN

## THE DROWNED

DARK NIGHTS  
**THE DROWNED**  
TIE-IN

Abnett  
Tan  
White







"All those generations of struggle,  
what purpose did they achieve?"

DR. MANHATTAN



A TWELVE-ISSUE DELUXE SERIES

**GEOFF JOHNS • GARY FRANK  
BRAD ANDERSON**



THE ONLY WORLD I'VE  
EVER KNOWN SINKS  
INTO THE DARKNESS  
BELOW ME FOREVER.

AS DOES THE ONLY  
LOVE I'VE EVER KNOWN.  
BUT SYLVESTER DIED A  
LONG TIME BEFORE MY  
WORLD DID.

I FOUGHT HARD TO CLING  
ON AND KEEP IT AFLOAT  
AFTER SYLVESTER'S DEATH,  
BUT IT COULDN'T BE SAVED.

IT'S TIME TO LET  
GO. TO ACCEPT.

AND GO  
UP...

...TOWARD  
THE LIGHT.

THE MOCKING LIGHT.  
THE DAMNED LIGHT.

THE  
SURFACE.

PROTECTING MY WORLD  
WAS AN OBSESSION  
THAT CONSUMED ME.

BY THE END, IT WAS LIKE  
TRYING TO TREAD WATER IN  
THE NUMBING COLD WHEN  
YOU'RE EXHAUSTED.

SPPGSGHHH

BETTER JUST  
TO DROWN.



DROWN  
IT ALL.

CRASH

THE LIGHT HURTS  
MY EYES. I'M  
NOT USED TO IT.

I HATE THE LIGHT.  
IT'S TO BLAME  
FOR EVERYTHING.

I USED TO THINK THAT  
SYLVESTER HAD GONE  
UP INTO THE LIGHT.

STUPID.

NAIVE.

MY LOVE ISN'T  
HERE AND THIS ISN'T  
A BETTER PLACE.

THE ONE WHO LAUGHS  
TOLD ME THIS TOWN IS  
CALLED AMNESTY BAY.

AMNESTY. A CLEAN  
SLATE. A CHANCE  
FOR A DO-OVER...

...A CHANCE TO  
WASH IT ALL AWAY  
AND START AGAIN.





MY WORLD WAS NEVER  
A GOOD PLACE. IT WAS  
BRUTAL AND CORRUPT.

MY WHOLE LIFE, I FOUGHT TO MAKE  
IT BETTER--EVEN AFTER THE ROGUE  
METAS TOOK SYLVESTER KYLE FROM ME.

I THOUGHT IT WAS  
AN ACHIEVABLE GOAL.

BUT I WAS WASTING MY  
TIME, BECAUSE MY WORLD  
COULD NEVER BE REDEEMED.

I KNOW NOW MY EARTH  
WAS A LOWER-TIER WORLD.  
MALFORMED AND BROKEN.

ONE OF MANY  
CURSED TO ROT  
AND SINK.



BECAUSE OF  
THE LIGHT, THE  
LIGHT UP HERE.

NO WONDER I  
COULDN'T SAVE IT  
DESPITE ALL MY  
SACRIFICES.

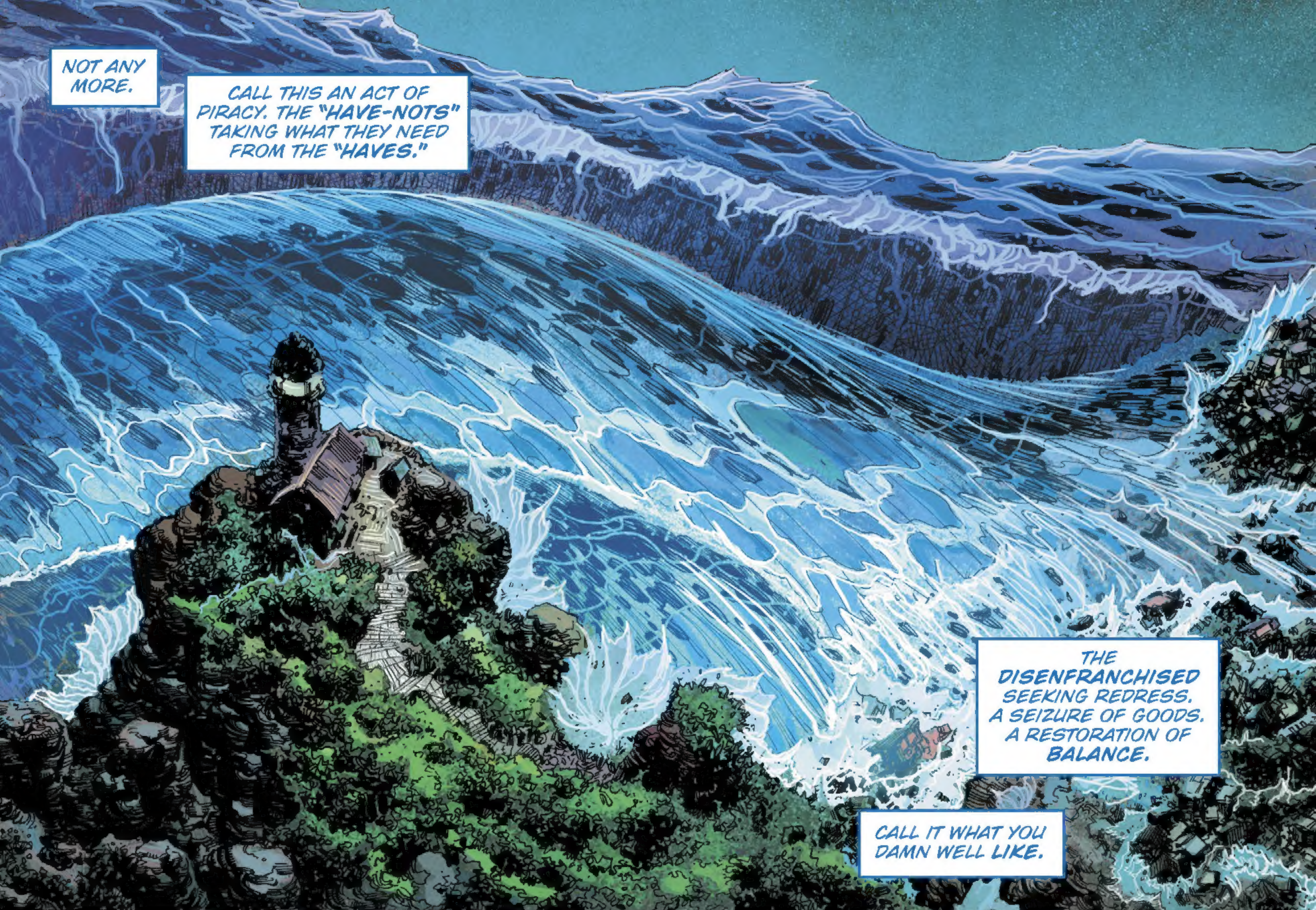
THE LIGHT IS WHERE  
THINGS ARE GOOD  
AND WHOLE. HERE,  
LIFE PROSPERS.

AND IT PROSPERS AT THE  
EXPENSE OF WORLDS IN  
THE LOWER TIER--LIKE MINE.

WE DECAY  
AND FALL SO  
IT CAN LIVE.

WE SUFFER SO  
IT CAN THRIVE.



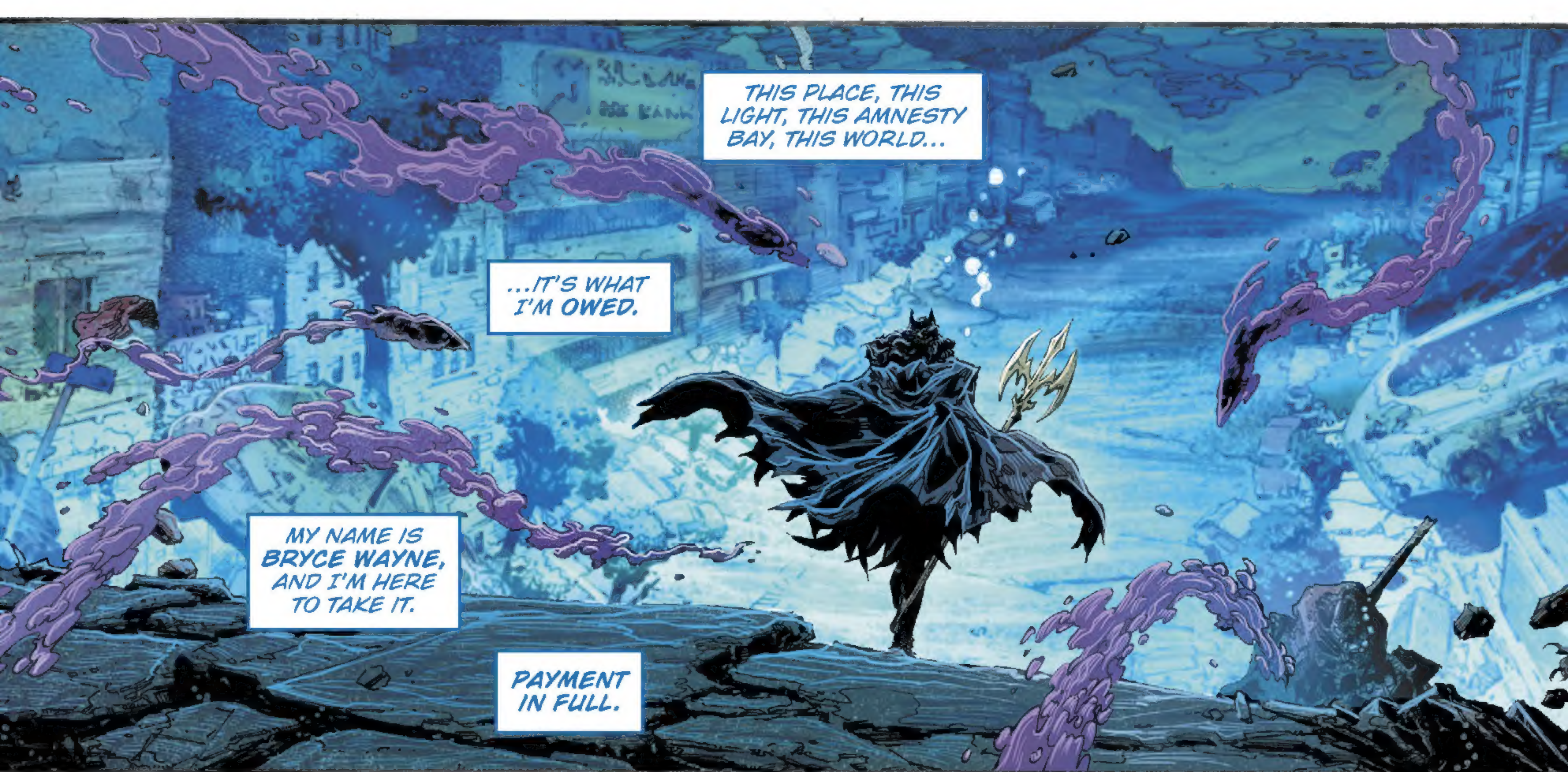


NOT ANY  
MORE.

CALL THIS AN ACT OF  
PIRACY. THE "HAVE-NOTS"  
TAKING WHAT THEY NEED  
FROM THE "HAVES."

THE  
DISENFRANCHISED  
SEEKING REDRESS.  
A SEIZURE OF GOODS.  
A RESTORATION OF  
BALANCE.

CALL IT WHAT YOU  
DAMN WELL LIKE.

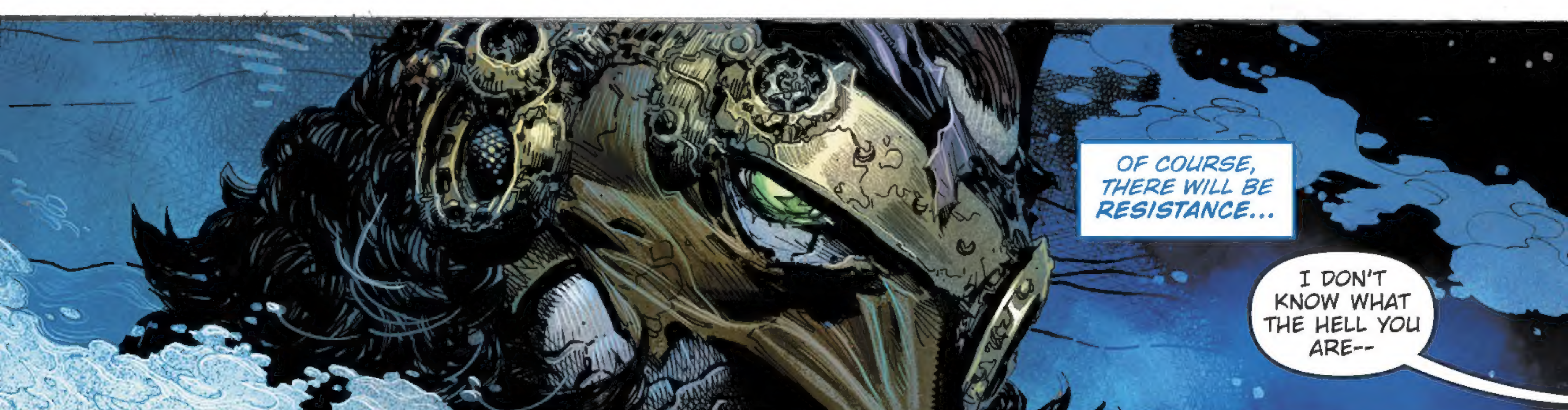


THIS PLACE, THIS  
LIGHT, THIS AMNESTY  
BAY, THIS WORLD...

...IT'S WHAT  
I'M OWED.

MY NAME IS  
BRYCE WAYNE,  
AND I'M HERE  
TO TAKE IT.

PAYMENT  
IN FULL.



OF COURSE,  
THERE WILL BE  
RESISTANCE...

I DON'T  
KNOW WHAT  
THE HELL YOU  
ARE--



I EXPECTED THAT.

--BUT  
THIS STOPS  
NOW.

MERA--

RIGHT  
BESIDE YOU,  
ARTHUR.

TAKE THIS  
MONSTER  
DOWN!

These are the stories from  
the Dark Multiverse that  
should NEVER be...

...Witness the rise of  
the Dark Knights...

# BATMAN THE DROWNED

## in *Rime of the Ancient Mariner*

DAN ABNETT WRITER PHILIP TAN & TYLER KIRKHAM ARTISTS DEAN WHITE & ARIF PRIANTO COLORS

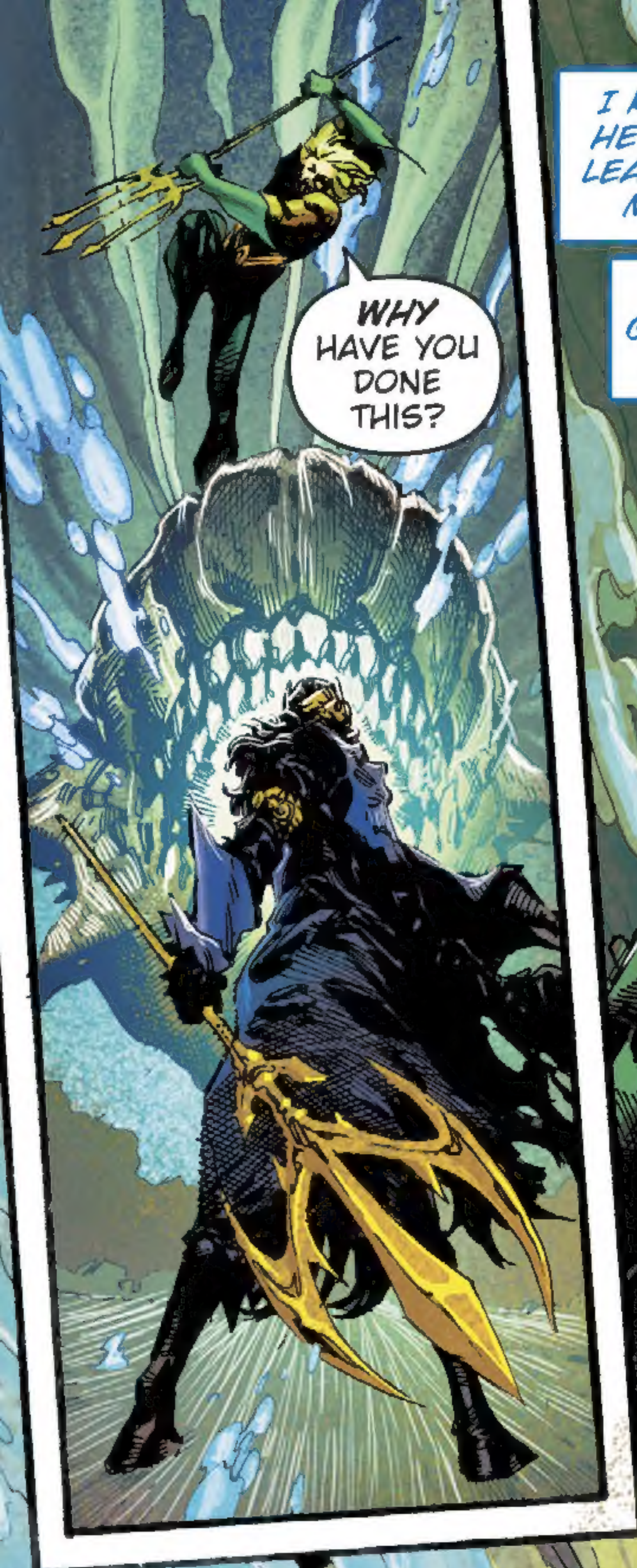
TOM NAPOLITANO LETTERS JASON FABOK AND BRAD ANDERSON COVER

JESSICA CHEN ASSOCIATE EDITOR PAUL HAMINSKI EDITOR EDDIE BERGANZA GROUP EDITOR

SPECIAL THANKS TO SCOTT SNYDER, GREG CAPULLO AND JAMES TYNION IV

BATMAN CREATED BY BOB KANE WITH BILL FINGER





WHY HAVE YOU DONE THIS?

I KNOW WHO HE IS...OR AT LEAST WHO HE MUST BE.

AN AQUAMAN. GENDER ROLES ARE REVERSED HERE.



BUT HE IS SLOW...

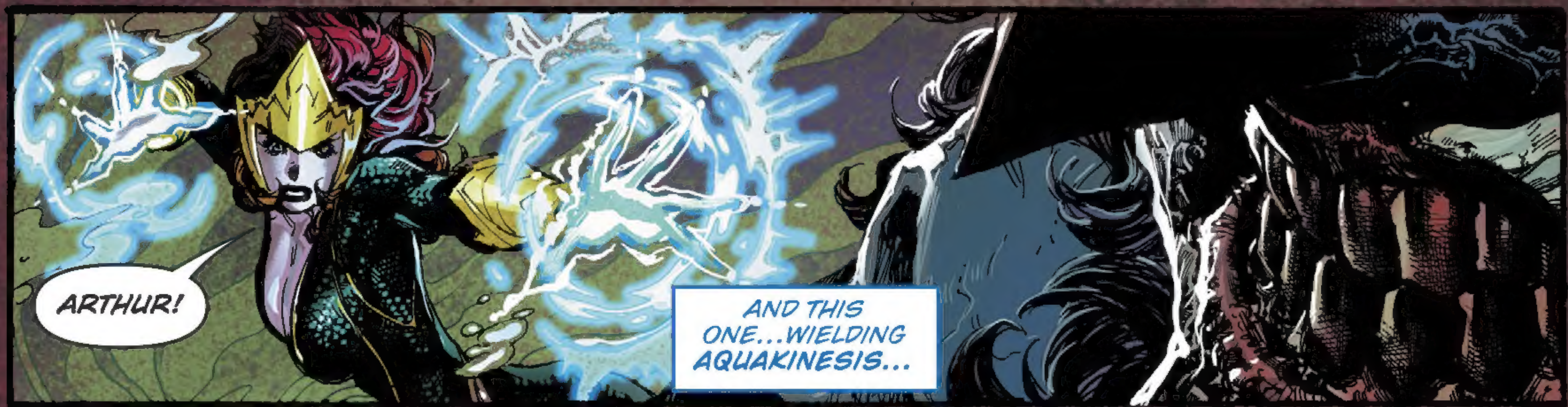
WHAT?

KRRUN  
HRRUN



...AND WEAK.

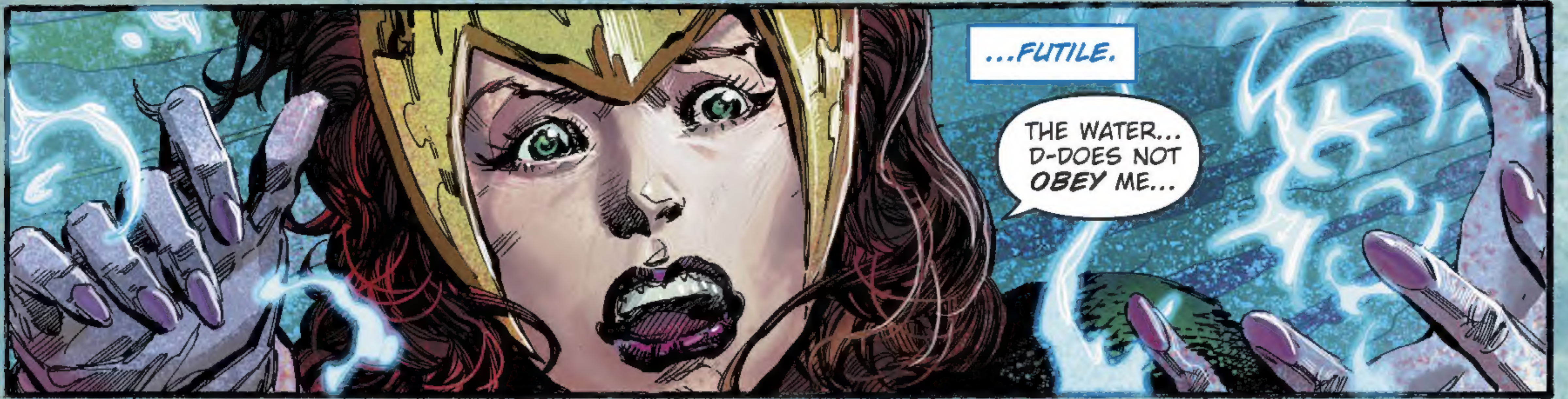
WHUN  
TFT



ARTHUR!

AND THIS ONE...WIELDING AQUAKINESIS...





...FUTILE.

THE WATER...  
D-DOES NOT  
OBEY ME...



UGHNN!

MY  
WATER. MY  
RULES.

HE COMES  
FOR ME AGAIN.

HE'S NOT  
HOLDING BACK.



THAT'S  
FINE.

I'VE FOUGHT AND  
KILLED PLENTY OF  
ATLANTEANS BEFORE...



# EARTH-11

...SINCE THEY  
FIRST APPEARED  
ON MY WORLD,  
YEARS AGO.

IT WAS EIGHTEEN  
MONTHS AFTER  
I'D HUNTED DOWN  
THE LAST OF THE  
ROGUE METAS AND  
AVENGED SYLVESTER.

I THOUGHT I'D  
FINALLY MADE MY  
WORLD SAFE.

BUT NO, HERE THEY  
WERE, LED BY THEIR QUEEN--  
AQUAWOMAN--EMERGING  
FROM THE SECRET PLACES  
OF THE SEA AFTER YEARS  
OF SELF-IMPOSED EXILE.

CLAIMING THEY  
CAME IN PEACE.

BUT I  
KNEW  
BETTER.

JUST MORE ROGUE  
METAS. A THREAT THAT  
MENACES EVERYTHING  
WE HELD DEAR.

I COULD FEEL  
IT IN MY GUT.

I DON'T TRUST  
ANYONE, BUT I TRUST  
MY GUT INSTINCT.

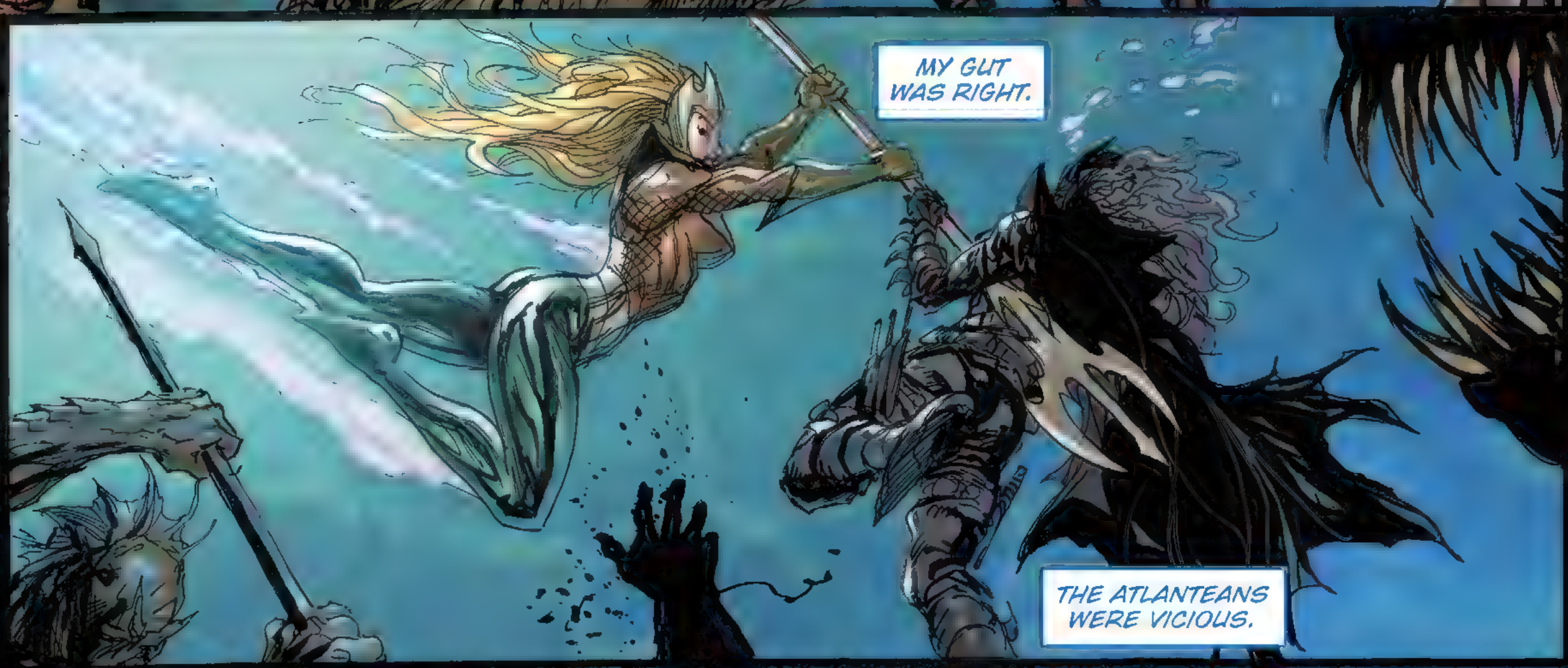
LIKE I TRUST MY ABILITY TO  
PROTECT THE INNOCENT.





I HAD NO FAITH IN THE ATLANTEANS' EFFORTS TO SUE FOR PEACE.

SURE ENOUGH, THE "PEACE TALKS" COLLAPSED IN VIOLENCE.



MY GUT WAS RIGHT.

THE ATLANTEANS WERE VICIOUS.



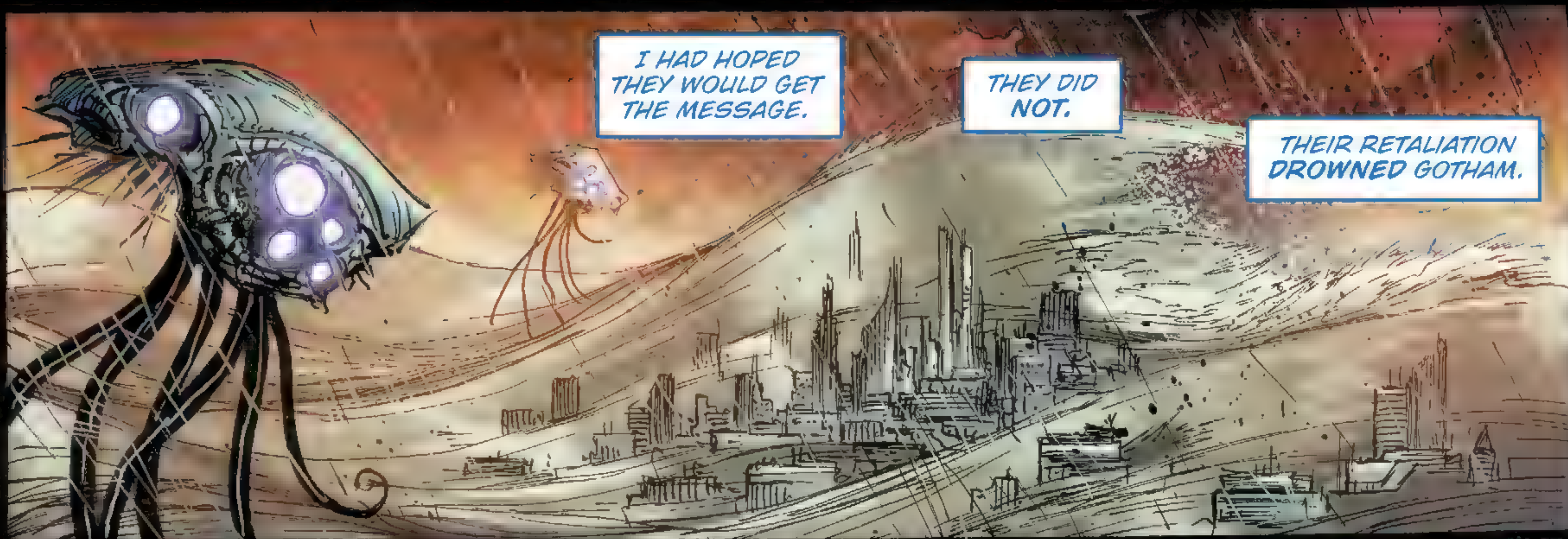
UNTRUSTWORTHY INVADERS. THAT'S WHAT THEY ALL ARE.



SO I REDEFINED  
VICIOUS FOR THEM.



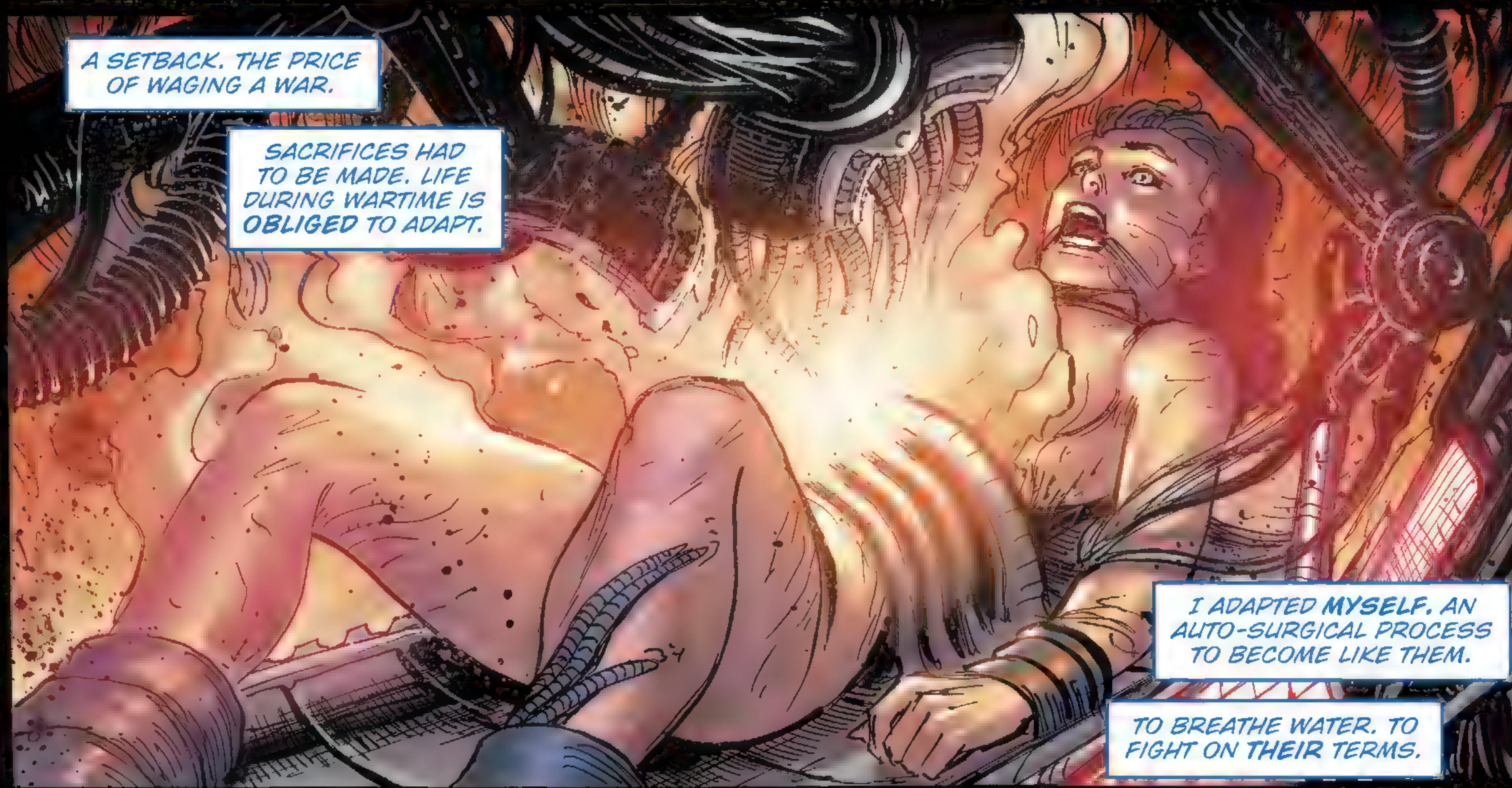




I HAD HOPED  
THEY WOULD GET  
THE MESSAGE.

THEY DID  
NOT.

THEIR RETALIATION  
DROWNED GOTHAM.

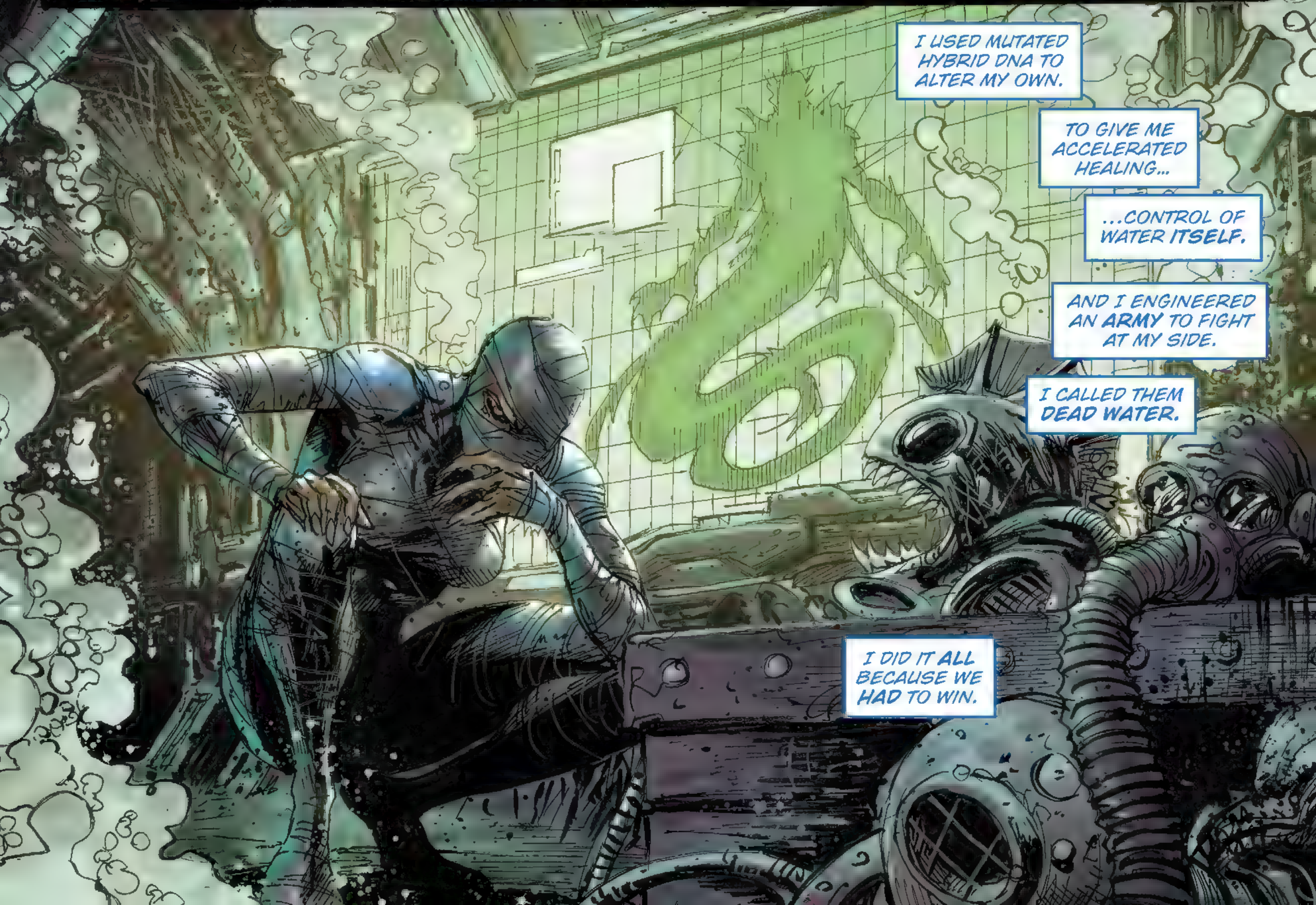


A SETBACK. THE PRICE  
OF WAGING A WAR.

SACRIFICES HAD  
TO BE MADE. LIFE  
DURING WARTIME IS  
OBLIGED TO ADAPT.

I ADAPTED MYSELF. AN  
AUTO-SURGICAL PROCESS  
TO BECOME LIKE THEM.

TO BREATHE WATER. TO  
FIGHT ON THEIR TERMS.



I USED MUTATED  
HYBRID DNA TO  
ALTER MY OWN.

TO GIVE ME  
ACCELERATED  
HEALING...

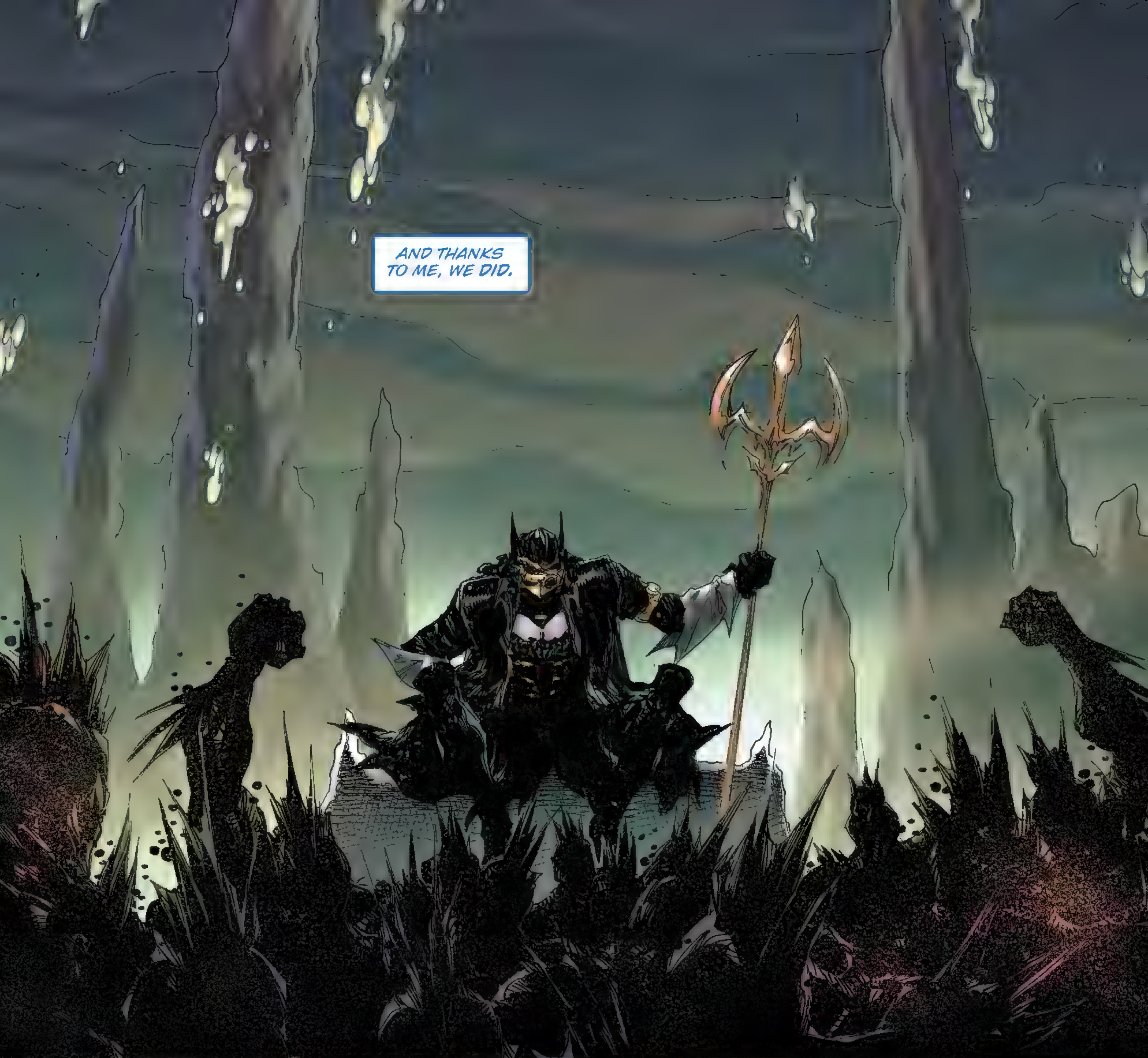
...CONTROL OF  
WATER ITSELF.

AND I ENGINEERED  
AN ARMY TO FIGHT  
AT MY SIDE.

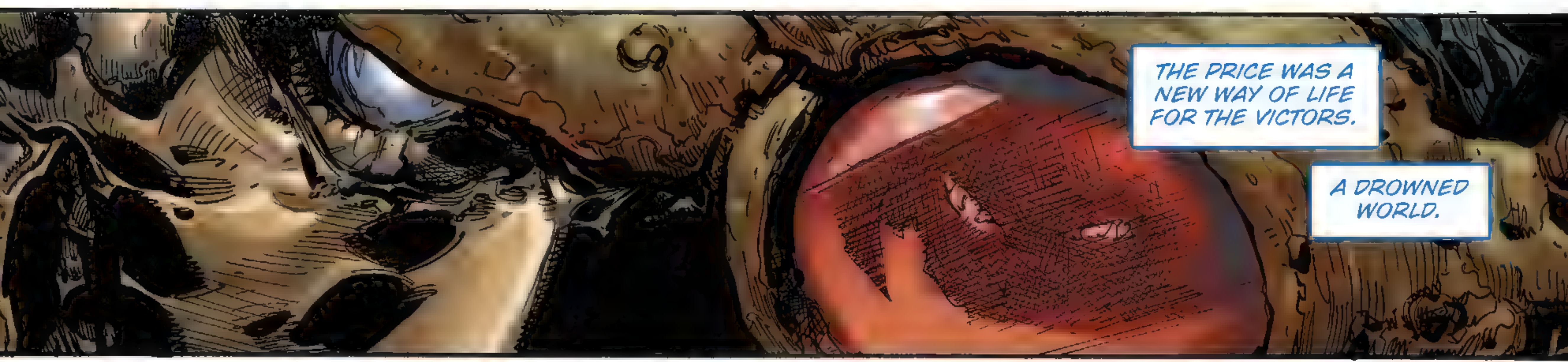
I CALLED THEM  
DEAD WATER.

I DID IT ALL  
BECAUSE WE  
HAD TO WIN.





AND THANKS  
TO ME, WE DID.



THE PRICE WAS A  
NEW WAY OF LIFE  
FOR THE VICTORS.

A DROWNED  
WORLD.



SO I LIT A LAMP TO  
SHINE OUT ACROSS THE  
DARKNESS OF THE DEEP.

A LIGHT TO  
SIGNAL HOPE  
AND VICTORY.

THE ONLY  
LIGHT LEFT IN  
THE WORLD.





THEN, ONE  
NIGHT, THE  
SIGNAL FELL  
DARK.

I WENT TO REPAIR  
IT, AND HE WAS  
WAITING FOR ME...

...THE ONE  
WHO LAUGHS.



YOU  
DON'T TRUST  
ANYTHING,  
DO YOU,  
BRYCE?

NOTHING  
AT ALL.

AND THIS  
WORLD IS DONE  
BECAUSE OF  
IT.

HE WAS  
RIGHT, I NEVER  
TRUST ANYTHING  
OR ANYONE.

BUT I  
TRUSTED  
HIM.

THERE WAS  
SOMETHING IN HIS  
VOICE. SOMETHING  
FAMILIAR AND  
REASSURING.



BUT IT'S  
NOT REALLY  
YOUR  
FAULT.

IT'S THE  
LIGHT, YOU  
SEE...





THE  
LIGHT UP  
THERE.

AND HE  
SHOWED IT  
TO ME.

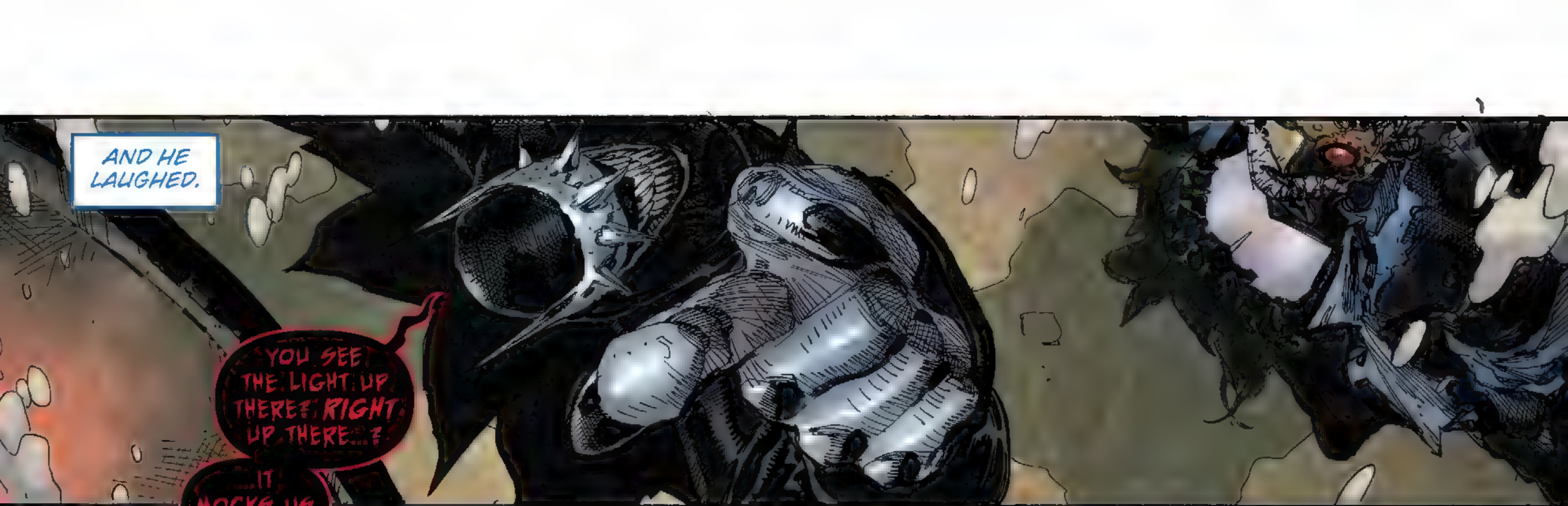
HE SHOWED ME THE  
LOWER-TIER WORLDS, THE  
MINUS REALMS OF THE  
DARK MULTIVERSE THAT  
HAD SUFFERED SO THAT  
THE LIGHT COULD THRIVE.

THE WORLDS AND THE  
PEOPLES THAT HAD PAID  
THE PRICE SO THAT THE  
WORLDS ABOVE US  
COULD FLOURISH.

AND HE  
SHOWED ME  
THE OTHERS  
LIKE ME.

OUTCAST ITERATIONS.  
DARK ECHOES OF A MAN  
WHO HAD TAKEN IT ALL.





AND HE  
LAUGHED.

YOU SEE  
THE LIGHT UP  
THERE? RIGHT  
UP THERE...?

IT  
MOCKS US  
ALL.

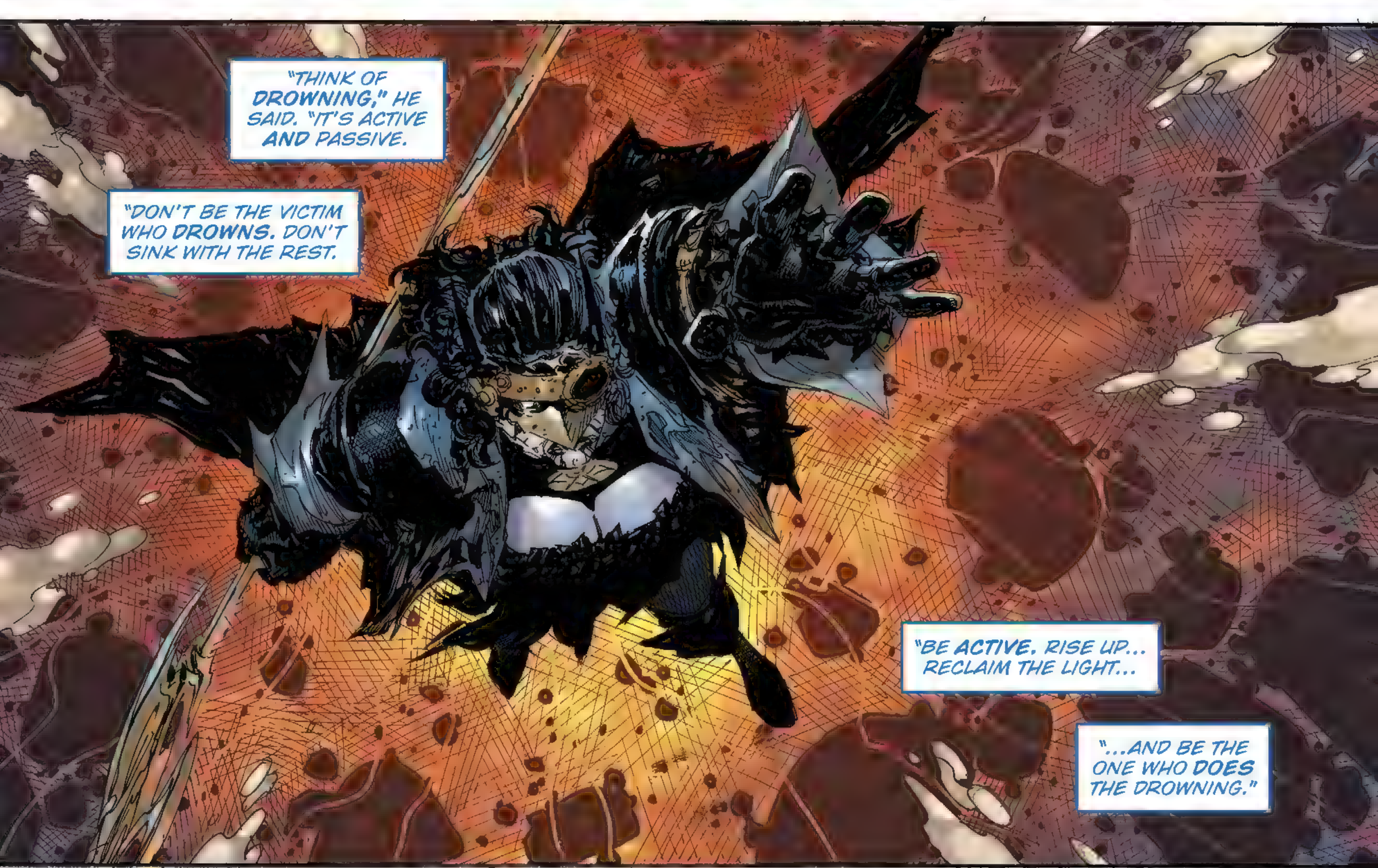
IT'S  
AN UNSULLIED  
MULTIVERSE WHERE  
ALL IS BRIGHT AND  
ASCENDANT.

IT'S WHY  
WE SUFFER. IT'S  
WHY NOTHING CAN  
EVER BE MADE  
RIGHT.



THAT  
WORLD IS THE  
PERFECTION  
YOU DREAM  
OF.

YOU ARE ITS  
NIGHTMARE.



"THINK OF  
DROWNING," HE  
SAID. "IT'S ACTIVE  
AND PASSIVE.

"DON'T BE THE VICTIM  
WHO DROWNS. DON'T  
SINK WITH THE REST.

"BE ACTIVE. RISE UP...  
RECLAIM THE LIGHT...

"...AND BE THE  
ONE WHO DOES  
THE DROWNING."



# EARTH-0.

THAT'S WHY  
I'M HERE.

ARTHUR,  
WHAT IS  
SHE?

HOW DO  
WE STOP  
HER--?

MERA,  
BEWARE--!



MY WATER.  
MY RULES.

I OPEN A CONDUIT AND  
BRING MY ARMY INTO THE  
LIGHT TO FIGHT AT MY SIDE.

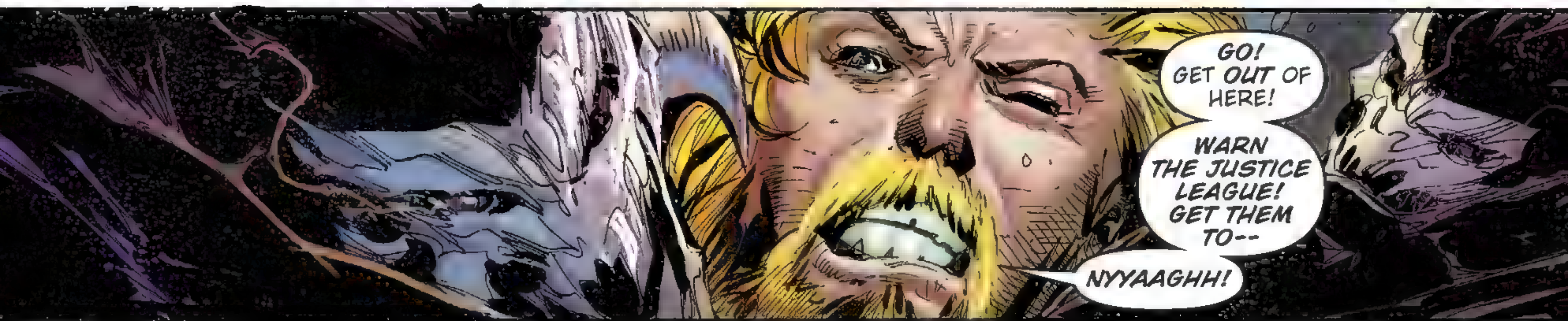




OH GOD!  
THEY'RE DEAD  
WATERS!

ARTHUR,  
AN ARMY  
OF DEAD  
WATERS!

AGHNN!  
MERA! GET  
BACK!



GO!  
GET OUT OF  
HERE!

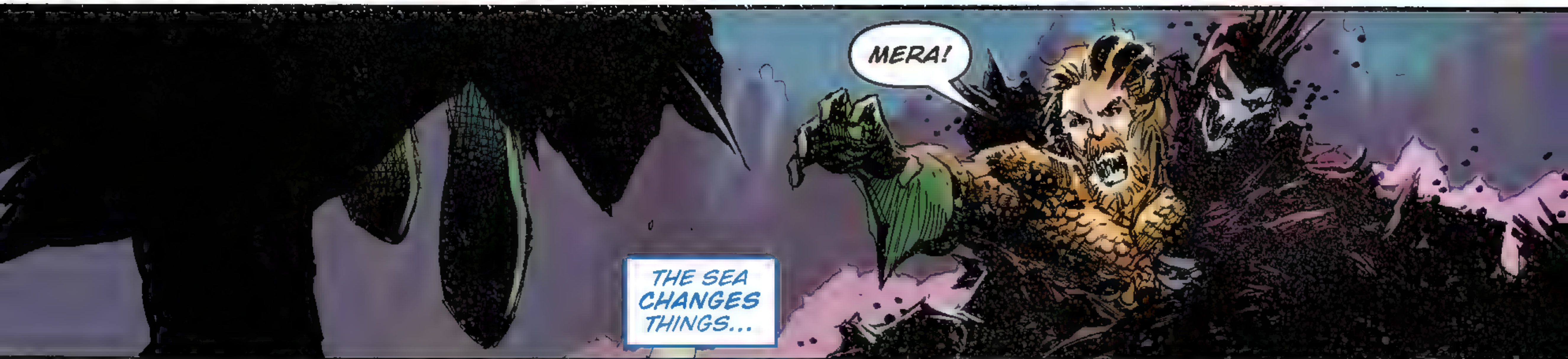
WARN  
THE JUSTICE  
LEAGUE!  
GET THEM  
TO--

NYAAAGHH!



YOU'RE  
NOT GOING  
ANYWHERE.

GHHKKK!



MERA!

THE SEA  
CHANGES  
THINGS...



...YOU CAN'T STOP IT.

MERGE WITH THE DEAD WATER...

...SUCCUMB TO THE INEVITABLE.

THAT'S HOW I MADE MY ARMY. THROUGH THE TRANSMUTING POWER OF THE SEA.

TO TURN THE TIDE OF LOYALTY.

TO DROWN OPPOSITION.

TO MAKE EVEN THE MOST RESISTANT FIGHT FOR ME.

NERA!

HE SCREAMS IN DESPAIR. I KNOW THAT FEELING. TO LOSE THE PERSON YOU LOVE.

HE IS GOING TO BE DEAD IN ANOTHER SECOND, AND THE PAIN WILL CEASE.

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO HER? WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?

HOW FORTUNATE. I WISH I HAD DIED A FEW SECONDS AFTER SYLVESTER, SO I COULD HAVE BEEN SPARED THE--

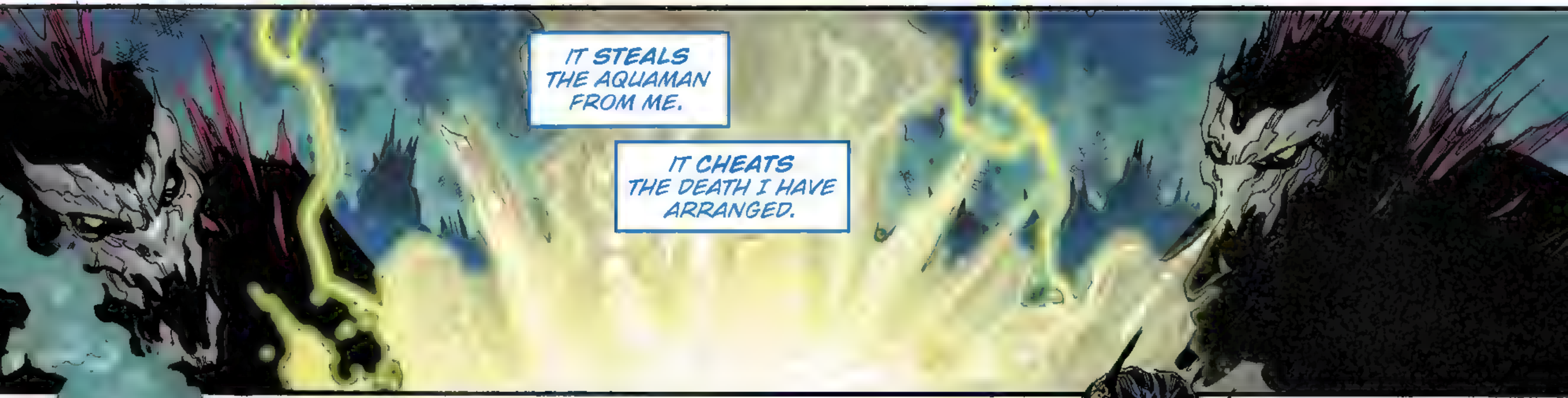




--WHAT IS  
THIS? MAGIC?

SOME SYMBOL I  
DON'T RECOGNIZE.

SOMEONE IS  
INTERVENING.



IT STEALS  
THE AQUAMAN  
FROM ME.

IT CHEATS  
THE DEATH I HAVE  
ARRANGED.



I WONDER  
WHERE IT'S  
TAKEN HIM.

MY SOLACE...HE'S  
ALIVE, AND WHEREVER  
HE'S GONE, HE'LL GET  
TO LIVE THAT PAIN.

UNTIL I FIND  
HIM AGAIN.





MY AMNESTY  
BEGINS HERE.

I LIGHT  
MY SIGNAL.

MY LIGHT...TO  
SHOW THIS WORLD  
MY INTENT...

...I'M GOING TO  
DROWN IT ALL.

THIS  
WHOLE  
WORLD.



TO BE CONTINUED  
NEXT WEEK IN

**BATMAN**  
THE MERCILESS

TRUST ME  
ON THAT.





## THE DARK PRINCE CHARMING



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Acclaimed European  
comics master

# ENRICO MARINI

presents a new vision  
of Gotham!

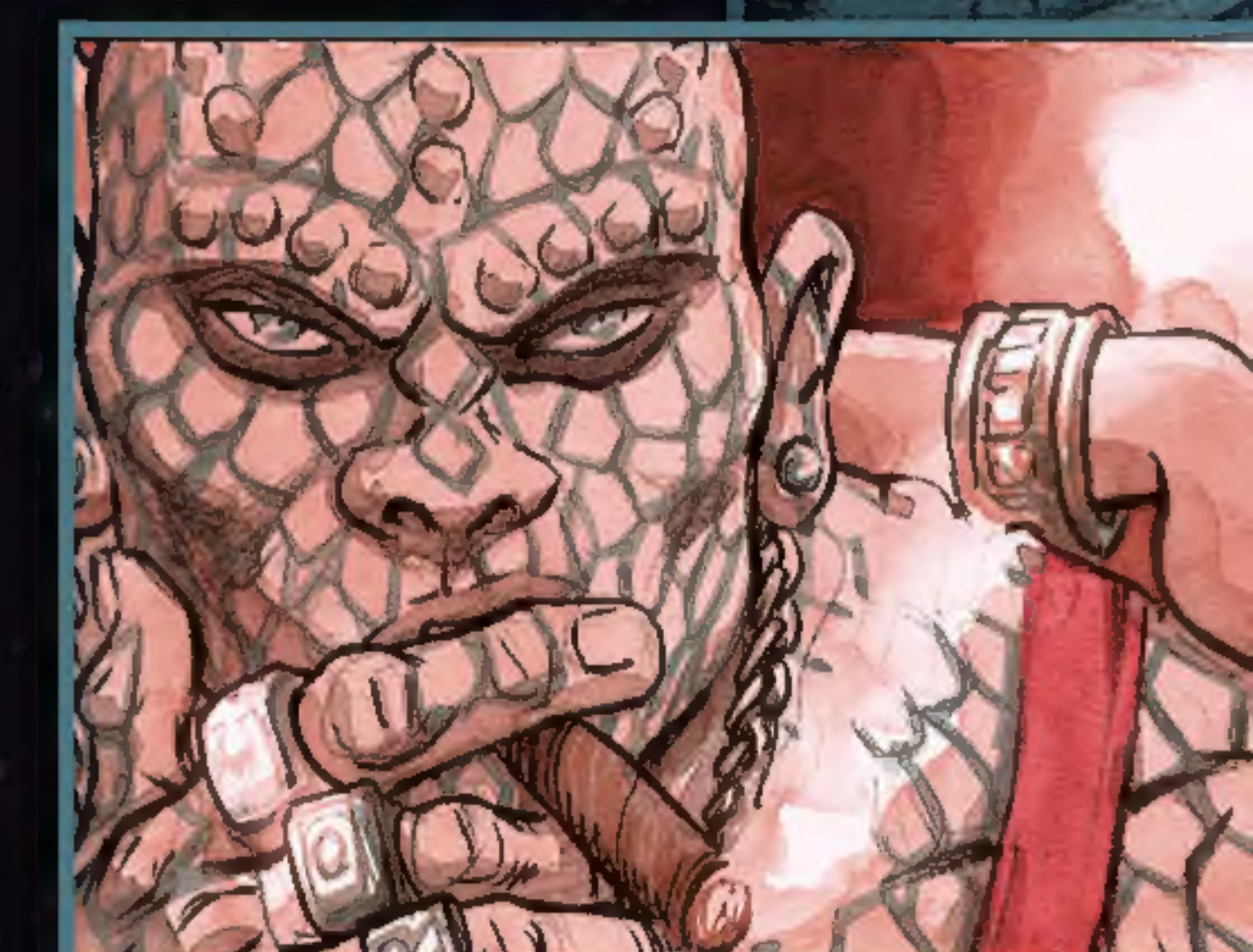


PART 1 OF A TWO-VOLUME GRAPHIC NOVEL SERIES  
AVAILABLE NOVEMBER

Part 2 coming in Spring 2018



DARGAUD







A **DC** **ALL ACCESS** INTERVIEW WITH  
**JASON MOMOA**

**Who is Aquaman?**

Aquaman is Arthur Curry, a rebel outlaw on the fringes of society who has just been hiding. He has always hung out with the riffraff and the dredges as a kind of outcast. When we find him, it's in a place where the villagers actually like

him. They respect him because he can bring in food and wants to help people. Many of them think of him as a god, but he doesn't feel that way about himself. His human side won't let him.

**How long has did it take to establish the look of Aquaman?**

Zack [director Zack Snyder] had the idea to put the tattoos everywhere and everyone wanted him to have a little bit of blonde in the hair. I just wanted him to have the Van Gogh green-colored eyes, where you can kind of get lost in them. You're scared by it, but you're drawn in. We put the contacts in, and I was like, wow. It's kind of scary, but hopefully not too scary.

**Talk about the costume, what makes it YOUR costume?**

Our costume designer, Michael Wilkinson, is just unbelievable. As far as the armor, it's just gold and green and about 40 pounds of rubber. I don't know what it's made out of, really, but it's heavy; it looks good; you put it on and just sink right into the character.

**You've said before that, for you, there was a connection between him as a character feeling between two worlds and how you grew up, being Hawaiian and land-locked in the middle of the country.**

There's a lot I could identify with because I was born in Hawaii and then raised in Iowa, which made me feel like an outcast. Aquaman's half and half. He was not accepted in Atlantis, but also doesn't fit in with the surface world. So, he lives in those tides. He's very defiant and a loner until he meets the team and it becomes this little family.

**DON'T MISS**  
**JUSTICE LEAGUE DAY ON 11/18/17**  
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